Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, "low-tech" solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at http://inform.enterprise.prog.org

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Work Zone Safety Systems

Overall goal:	To address and improve safety in work zones by applying intelligent transportation systems technologies.
Technical approach:	A group of Midwestern states have collectively pooled resources and efforts to further investigate technologies that can address safety concerns in work zones. A primary reason for convening the group is to prevent duplication of efforts. This consists of holding stakeholder workshops to identify and prioritize work zone safety problems, and selecting technologies for evaluation that will improve the safety and efficiency of traffic operations and highway work. Evaluations were performed of a number of technologies, including: Solar-Powered Barricade Warning Lights, Solar-Powered Illuminated RPMs, LightGuard System, Orange Rumble Strips, Advanced Lane Drop Arrows, Safety Cade Barricade, Safety Warning System, Wizard CB Alert System, Drone Radar, Speed Monitor Display, Portable Traffic Management System, Adaptir, and Traffic Control Plan Design.
Current status:	Current plans include testing further the different technologies in work zone applications. The group is looking forward to other states joining in the research and efforts of the pooled-fund study.
Location / geographic scope:	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska
Agencies involved:	Iowa Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Transportation, Missouri Department of Transportation, Nebraska Department of

U.S. Department of Transportation
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	Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, University of Nebraska Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC)
Cost information:	Approximately $60,000 to $80,000 per state.
Key contacts:	Patrick T. McCoy, Chairman, MwSWZDI Technical Committee (402)-472-5019
Have goals been achieved?	Yes. Each partner state has benefited from the research results of other states.
Solution timeline:	The Mid-America Smart Work-Zone Deployment Initiative (MwSWZDI) has begun planning for their third year. Vendors have been invited to a committee meeting to present technologies that can be used in work zones. Select technologies will then be identified for testing and evaluation by participating states.

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